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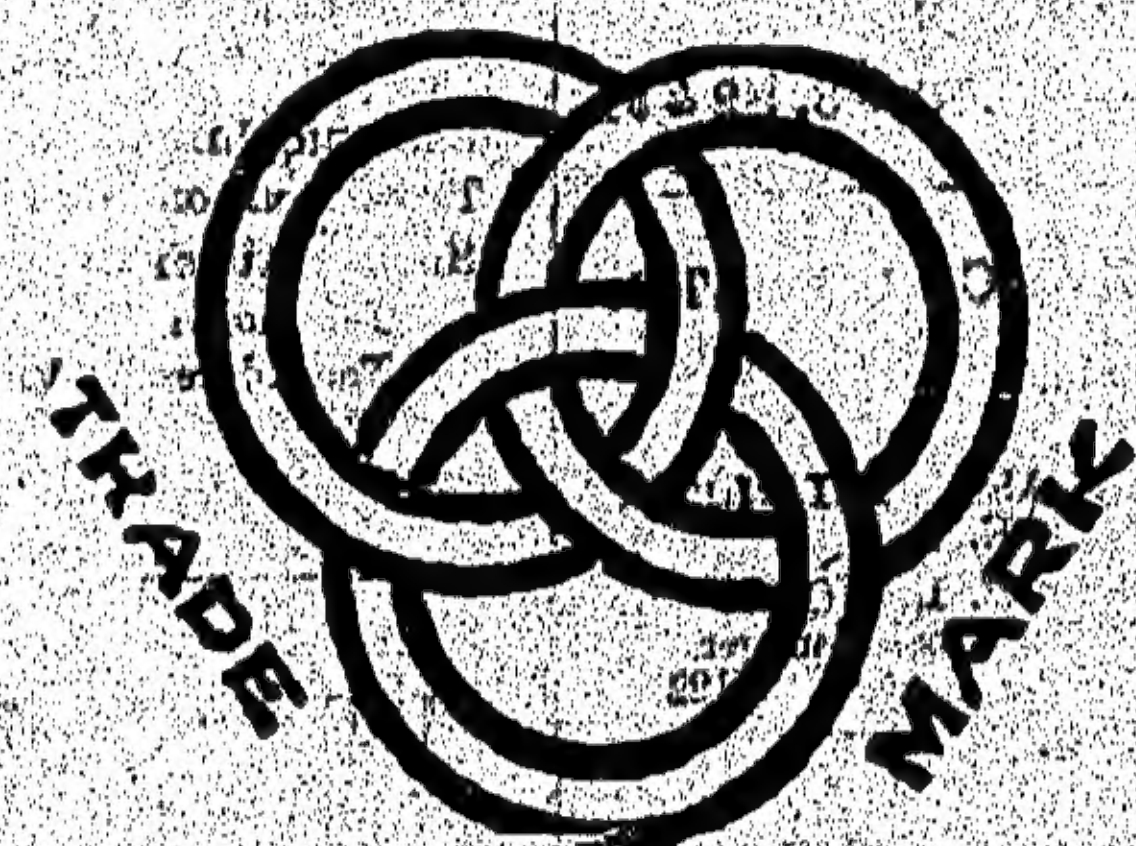
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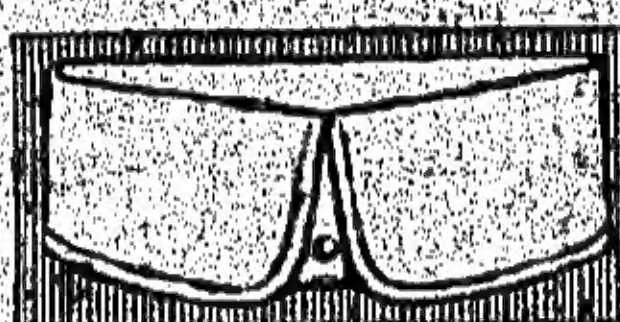


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CHINESE NEWS.

TAKING STOCK OF MUNITIONS.

The Ministry of War has issued an order to the authorities of the arsenals in the different parts of the country to make a report on the number and quantity of arms, guns, ammunition, and materials for manufacturing munitions of war now kept in their stores.

GERMANY PREPARING FOR THE WORST.

According to the *Shun Tien Shih Pao*, the German Legation has ordered the Consulate in the country in view of the growing gravity of the diplomatic situation to make necessary preparations against the severance of diplomatic relations between Germany and this country.

THE MILITARY CONFERENCE.

The Government has now decided that the Central Military Conference should begin its sittings from the 15th of March. Each of the Tientsin and Occupation Commissioners is required to send one delegate to the Conference. The Prime Minister will be Chairman.

FORTS AT TAKU AND TSINGTAO.

The Board of General Staff proposes that forts should be built at both Taku and Tsingtao. A memorandum to this effect has been submitted to the Cabinet Office for discussion. This is one of the measures included in the Coast Defence Scheme.

HIGH POLICE SCHOOL.

The Ministers of the Interior and of Education are jointly considering the establishment of a High Police School to train efficient police officers. The regulations for the High School have been drafted and submitted to the Cabinet Office.

MACAO DEMARCATION.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has just dispatched an important document to the Kwangtung authorities informing them that a Demarcation Committee will be organized in Peking in March for the purpose of settling all outstanding demarcation questions between China and France, Great Britain and Portugal. The question of Macao demarcation will then be taken up.

The Kwangtung Governor is therefore requested to send a complete set of flood documents on the question to the Ministry. The Governor is also requested to appoint an official hitherto in charge of the matter as delegate to Peking to participate in the discussion of this question.

BRASS CASH.

The Chinese authorities have instituted an investigation with the object of starting the scheme for the purchase and smelting of the brass cash, and it has been found that the total amount of these cash in circulation at present is about 41,501,000,000, which at the rate of 1200 per dollar is more than \$30,000,000. This amount of cash is distributed as follows:—Chihli and Shansi, 733,800,000; Shansi, Honan, Shensi, Kansu and Sinkiang, 11,400,000,000; Yunnan, Kweichow, Kwangsi, Kwangtung and Szechwan, 14,400,000,000; Kiangsu, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Chekiang, Fukien, Hunan, and Hupeh, 31,040,100,000; Three Eastern Provinces and Inner Mongolia, 2,825,300,000.

The Szechwan Government intends to collect small cash and use them for mining ten cash pieces. It is calculated that this will produce a huge profit.

BANK OF CHINA'S DIVIDEND.

The Bank of China announced that it will pay to shareholders a dividend of 9 per cent. for the year just closed. This is in addition to the payment of 7 per cent. interest on share capital invested, so that the total payment per share will be 16 per cent. Shareholders will be able to draw their dividends from the 10th March on presentation of share certificates either at the Head Office or at branch offices.

COUNTRY CLEANSING IN KWANGTUNG.

The Military and Civil Governors of Kwangtung have divided the province of Kwangtung into fourteen sections, and appointed special officials to commence the work of "country cleansing."

Normal conditions in Kwangtung have been restored and the re-organization of troops has been completed in consequence of the great efforts made by the Civil and Military Governors of the province. Reports from the districts far from the provincial capital, the people have been suffering intensely from local taxes and bad characters. In an attempt to suppress the *raids*, the authorities of the province have deemed it necessary to introduce the former "country cleansing" system, which proved very effective during the late Tang Dynasty.

JAPAN'S NEW RAILWAYS.

The Imperial Railway Board of Japan is contemplating the construction of 29 new railway lines with an aggregate length of 1135 miles at a cost of ¥178,106,000. The railways are to be short branch lines in many different parts of the island empire, varying in length from nine miles to 124 miles. Some day Japan will have to face the tremendous task of increasing the gauge of her railways to standard width, the mistake having been made when the first lines were built of constructing narrow gauge which is not suitable for the present large and increasing traffic. The work would cost such a stupendous sum that it will probably be many years before it will be undertaken.

WOOLLEN GOODS TRADE OF CHINA.

The U.S. Consul-General in Shanghai, Mr. Thomas Sainsbury, reports that in considering the woollen-goods trade of China it is safe to estimate that at least 35 per cent. of the total consumption is due to the foreign population and the remaining 65 per cent. may be apportioned to the Chinese who have adopted the Western style of dress and also to those who, while still adhering to the Chinese style of dress, prefer to have their clothes made of woollen goods instead of the customary and less expensive cotton, linen, or silk goods.

TRAFFIC-PORT SALES.

While there has been a rapid increase in the sale of woollen goods to Chinese, especially since the establishment of the Republic in 1913, this movement is largely limited to the treaty ports where the Chinese have for decades been coming in direct contact with things Western. Although it may be expected that the adoption of Western ways will steadily spread, there are three factors that do much to impede the progress of woollen goods, namely, the conservatism of the race, the superior comfort of the native costume, and the low cost of other than woollen materials. This is evidenced by the fact that many Chinese who have lived for years abroad upon returning to China take up again the dress of their ancestors.

CHINESE CLOTHING MATERIALS.

Chinese clothing materials are confined almost entirely to cotton, linen, grass cloth and silk, and the cost is well suited to the average purchasing power of the people. Woollen cloth has been sold in China for many years, England, and especially Germany, having succeeded in winning the market by adopting a suitable scale of prices. America's sales have been noticeable only since the outbreak of the European war and the attendant advance in prices. With this advance in price it has been possible for stocks of woollens in Shanghai and elsewhere in China to be sold at a profit in European market. The demand for woollen setges and overcoatings is increasing, and it is doubtless due to high prices alone that are retarding trade. The retail sales are made in low-grade goods of about 40 per cent. cotton and 60 per cent. woollen mixtures, the demand for all wool goods coming mainly from foreigners.

Manufacturers seeking an extension of the market for their goods in China should bear in mind that even the beautiful plain and flowered silks worn by the wealthier classes are to be had at comparatively low figures, and that low prices will assist materially in inducing the Chinese to wear woollens on a large scale. The Chinese mind is not easily appealed to by the usual talk of quality being cheaper in the end. On the contrary, price is considered first and last. However, once a satisfactory deal is made, a demand is created, and trade from that buyer is assured. Large profits are more often derived from volume in sales of low-priced goods than from large margins on high-priced goods.

NORTH CHINA WOOLLEN DEMAND.—WOOLLEN AND COTTON BLANKETS.

A recent investigation of the market shows that Manchuria, and especially that portion that is in the Russian sphere of influence, is in need of woollen goods, a number of orders having been placed there. Mukden, situated in an agricultural district, demands only the lower grades of woollens. Tientsin and Peking, on the contrary, require the better grades of serges and overcoatings in blacks, blues, and greys, the same being true of Hankow. Although Shanghai is the port of entry for the ports of the Yangtze Valley, and supplies North-east China up to Harbin, interior dealers come in periodically to do their buying for the coming seasons. The woollen goods market in this port has been slack, due largely to the disturbed condition of the country generally.

There has been a small demand throughout for woollen and cotton blankets, with a tendency on the part of the Chinese dealers to find a substitute for costly woollen ones in a cheaper cotton blanket. There is evidently a volume of trade to be done in China in blankets alone, although most of the business still goes to Europe. The principal sizes and weights are as follows:—60 by 30 in., 64 by 34 in., 44 by 44 in., and singles of 14 lb.

DOLLAR TO SUPERSEDE TAI.

MOVEMENT BY SHANGHAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The District Chamber of Commerce at Shanghai has started a movement which will eventually lead to the superseding of the tael by the dollar. Before the time of the establishment of the Republic, all monetary payments, in both official and business transactions were made in taels. Since 1911, the Government has ordered the use of dollars in the place of taels in all Government transactions. This order has been carried into effect in many provinces, but in the business circles of Shanghai the use of taels is still popular. In view of the fact that there are many inconveniences and in fact disadvantages in the retention of the tael system in recent-day business transactions, the Shanghai District Chamber has consulted the leaders of the Chinese banking firms of Shanghai on the question of making a change calculated to supersede the tael by the dollar. When the views of these leaders, who practically control Chinese financial circles in Shanghai, are obtained, the representatives of foreign banks and the Chinese and foreign merchants will also be consulted. A committee will soon be appointed to make preliminary arrangements for the launching of the movement.—Peking Daily News.

TRADE CONDITIONS AT TSINGTAO.

In the course of a recent report, the American Consul states that the year 1916 was spent by Tsingtao in adapting itself to commercial and other conditions changed by the war. By the latter part of the year the Chinese merchants, through whom import and export connections are maintained with the interior, began to return to the port. At the same time the several varieties of export business in which Tsingtao used to hold an important place had not revived to any marked degree by the end of the year, and the products of Shantung Province continued to be exported through other ports.

Shipping connections between Tsingtao and other far Eastern ports were limited to one steamer per week allowed to British firms, and to Japanese bottoms, but these proved sufficient to obtain, freight, of course, was hard to obtain, and in common with every Chinese port Tsingtao felt the shortage, especially in respect to exports.

Formerly in respect to direct foreign imports Tsingtao ranked fifth among Chinese ports. In 1916, with its trade cut in half, it ranked about ninth; but the port should easily regain its former ranks, so great are its advantages as regards shipping facilities, and accessibility to and from the interior.

With the exception of two British firms of long standing, the import business at Tsingtao in 1916 was in the hands of newly-opened branches of Japanese firms. This gave Japanese imports a great advantage, notably in the case of cotton yarn. Figures furnished by local merchants give the imports of cotton yarn before the war roughly as follows: 20 per cent. Chinese, 20 per cent. Indian, 40 per cent. Japanese. But in 1916 the Japanese yarn represented 90 per cent. of the total, which was about 50,000 bales, or a little more than one-half the 1914 total. The demand for this yarn is increasing, which, in the absence of textile establishments, is only to be explained by the increasing extent to which the natives are compelled by high prices to resort to hand looms, just as the high prices of petroleum products are causing a return to groundnut (peanut) oil as an illuminant. Japanese pre-eminence in yarn imports, however, is also to be accounted for by the fact that since steamship connection with Shanghai is neither so good nor so cheap as before the war, yarn is now coming to Shantung from that port by rail, and this portion does not enter into the Maritime Customs reports.

oward the end of 1915 plans were made for the erection near Tsingtao of a spinning mill of 25,000 to 30,000 spindles, the machinery to be British, purchased through a Japanese agency. The project was well started by the spring of 1916. The concern undertaking it is a Japanese firm having a capital of \$2,500,000, three separate large mills in Osaka and Shanghai. It is said that \$700,000 has been set aside to finance the local mill. The product of the mill will be about 16 per cent. of the yarn import of yarn and should therefore find a ready sale.

MELTING CHINESE BRASS COINS.

The U.S. Consul-General for Hongkong, Mr. George E. Anderson, referring to the export from China, particularly to Japan, of Chinese "cash" that have been the basis of all trade in the interior of China for many generations, says the rise in the price of copper has rendered these brass coins, which usually contain about 80 per cent. of copper, more valuable as metal than as a medium of exchange.

For a time over 6,000 tons of the coins were exported monthly to Japan alone. A fall in the price of copper, reduced shipments to about half this quantity, but the exports continued, and now at various points in the interior of China the number of cash in circulation is far below the requirements of the people, and difficulty is being experienced in carrying on ordinary trade. In parts of South China, Chinese 1 cent pieces now exchange for only 5 cash, instead of 10 cash that usually is considered a standard rate of exchange. The cash have been bringing about \$25 local currency, or something like \$12.50 gold, per picul of 133 lb. In Japan they have been valued at the equivalent of \$15 gold. Japanese newspapers report that the refined copper is being exported to the United States.

The business of buying up and melting these coins has been so large and so profitable that a monopoly thereof was one of the considerations proposed for a recent Sino-Japanese loan. The fact that a single Japanese firm is in the market for 3,000,000 piculs (200,000 short tons) indicates something of the enormous quantity of such coins in China. At the same time the population like that of China are in proportion, and the melting up of such coins disturbs the balance of supply and demand. The first effect will be to increase prices locally in terms of cash, the medium on which Chinese production of goods for export primarily is based—and it is likely therefore to have a marked effect on foreign exports.

SHIPPING NEWS.

NEW STEAMER FOR THE FAR EAST.

Starting on her maiden trip for the Far East, the Pacific Mail liner *Columbia*, called from New York on February 25th, will arrive at Hongkong on April 14th. She will leave this port for San Francisco on April 22nd.

BUILDING ACTIVITY AT SHANGHAI.

Some interesting details are given in a recent report by the U.S. Consul-General, Mr. Thomas Sainsbury, concerning the unusual building construction activities at Shanghai. He states that the value of buildings under construction in the International Settlement at Shanghai for the first half of 1916 was approximately \$2,400,000. This is a remarkable showing when compared with the returns for the whole of 1915, which aggregated about \$3,500,000. These figures represent only the International Settlement. Extensive building operations are also being carried on in the French Concession, the Chinese native city, and in the suburbs. The large amount of building work at present carried on in Shanghai may be accounted for in part by the urgent need of the structures now being erected. The cost of building is in general 30 per cent. higher than ordinarily, and the belief is that these higher figures will not be reduced to the normal for many months to come. The loss in the extra cost of building, however, will in most cases be offset by bigger profits resulting from larger rentals and increased business.

CHARACTER OF BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

The buildings under construction in the International Settlement in Shanghai may be classified thus: Native residences and shops, semi-foreign shops, semi-foreign residences, foreign residences, offices and shops.

The largest number of building operations comes under native residences and shops. The foreign residences, offices, and shops, constitute the bulk of the expensive buildings, and are generally substantial and well-constructed.

FOREIGN RESIDENCES.

The walls of the foreign residences, offices, shops, and godowns are generally of solid brick, although fronts are sometimes constructed of granite, stone, or artificial stone. Constructional timber is invariably Oregon pine; floors in some cases being Oregon pine, but usually Singapore red wood. This wood, which resembles the Luan (Burmese) family, makes a good floor and shows up well when coated with native varnish, known as "Ningpo varnish." Singapore red wood is also extensively used for cabinet work. A good quality of lock sets are used, usually of British manufacture. The use of reinforced concrete has grown rapidly and it is now being extensively employed in office shops and factory blocks. Expanded metal, wire mesh, and reinforcement bars of every description are in great demand, although at high prices. The demand will in all probability greatly increase. Cement is being consumed in increasing quantities, the supply being met from mills in or near China.

Before the war Belgium was practically the only source of supply for window glass. Now it is obtained from Japan and America.

JAPANESE MEDICAL MEN.

PRACTICE IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Japanese physicians who have been graduated from recognized medical schools in Japan will be permitted to practise in England and in the British colonies, according to a statement issued by the Foreign Office on February 14th, (says the *Japan Advertiser*). This question has been pending for many years, but now an understanding has been reached between the two nations as to the qualification of the Japanese physicians.

Henceforth the qualifications of Japanese medical graduates who are to be permitted to practise in the United Kingdom are that they have held the degree of doctor of medicine or are graduates of the medical schools of the Imperial universities of Japan. The qualifications of those who will be permitted to practise in the British Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, and the State of Johore, have been changed since June last year, so that the graduates of special medical schools, governmental and public, the private medical schools under the sanction and who hold the title of bachelor of medicine, are permitted to practise there.

Now comes a note from the British Foreign Office to the Japanese Embassy in London, which states that the British Central Medical Commission, at its meeting on November 27th last year, decided that the graduates in medicine from these special medical schools may be registered as foreign physicians in England. Those whose names are thus registered may practise in England and in the British possessions as physicians for internal diseases, surgical operations, and obstetrics. But they must comply with the rules and regulations of each of these lands, according to the decision of the Commission.

A KOREAN MATHEMATICAL GENIUS.

A silver wrist watch has been presented by the Governor-General of Chosen to a Korean lad named An Myeongwhan, an accountant in the service of the Land Investigation Bureau. The special gift was made in appreciation of his wonderful mathematical talent. It is said that he can add up twenty-five items of four figures each in seven seconds by mental calculation. By using an abacus, the time required by him in making the same addition is eight seconds. This is less than half the time taken by the most talented accountants in Japan, and one-fifth the time needed by an ordinary accountant. This wonderful mathematical genius is only sixteen years old. His father died two years ago, and he is now supporting his family, consisting of his mother, a brother, and a sister on 70 cwan a day, an unprecedented high wage for a Korean accountant. (It may be mentioned that this is the second time that Mr. An has received a special reward for his mathematical talent, the first taking place last year, when Count Teranishi inspected the Land Investigation Bureau.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LATE MR. A. H. HEWITT.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

Sir,—As his friend here for 27 years, I would express my appreciation of the late Mr. Hewitt, whose sad death through accident at the Kowloon Cement Works you recently reported.

Trained as a marine engineer at Messrs. Maudslays, Mr. Hewitt came to Hongkong 20 years ago, and for 28 years was in the employment of the Green Island Cement Co., Ltd., first as Chief Engineer of their Macao Works, and, later, as Superintendent Engineer of the Company's business where the large additional factory at Kowloon was built. When Mr. Hewitt joined the Company its affairs were in very low water, the shares having a nominal quotation of only \$1, but Mr. Hewitt, whose abilities soon became known, declined other tempting offers and devoted his life to the success of the Company. His answer to one such offer was: "I will not leave the Cement Company until I see it a success." These works ran 24 hours daily, and for 28 years Mr. Hewitt lived in the works and gave the business, day and night, his closest personal attention. He lived to see the Company a success and lost his life in its service.

He was a man of extraordinary natural ability and of brilliant attainments, cheerful and resourceful in all circumstances and of untiring industry; wise, just and generous. He counted not mere monetary success, but valued only duty, honour, and the best use of his talents.

Many who read these lines will remember his counsel and kindly help, ever at the service of his friends. During the War Mr. Hewitt has given all his means to his country's service and his scanty leisure to the Kowloon Section of the Police Reserve, the success of which is chiefly due to his tact, example, and constant attention. He was a man and a gentleman in the highest sense, a true knight without fear or reproach, and he commanded the respect and love of his friends and subordinates, who feel they have now lost one who cannot be replaced. They will never forget A. H. Hewitt and his splendid example of unselfish work and devotion.—Yours, etc.,

W. S. BAILEY.

RACING IN WAR TIME.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

Sir,—Silver Bullet's singles, out pony racing in China as the one thing to be avoided in war time. Personally I cannot see that it is any worse watching "the sport of kings" than a football match (which he approves of) and which is not infrequently followed (in Hongkong at least) by accusations of foul play from anonymous writers to the Press. Neither can I see that it is any worse than indulging in coconut shies and Aunt Sally on "Our Day" at ten cents a time. Our forbears were not wont to go about in times of trouble as if they had lost a sovereign and found sixpence. Drake finished his game of bowls before going to meet the Spanish Armada, and the Duchess of Richmond gave a great ball on the eve of Waterloo.

From the pecuniary point of view, pony racing benefits charity far more than any other sport. It is expected that the Red Cross will benefit by this Race Meeting of ours to the extent of seven or eight thousand pounds. Did the Aunt Sallys and cocoanut shies on "Our Day" bring in as many cents? Have the various football matches brought anything at all? Anonymous garbage there has been a plenty.—Yours truly,

HENRY HUMPHREYS.

NAME'S DISCLOSURE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

Sir,—Your correspondent "J. M." doubtless thought he would frighten me by asking me to disclose my name. On the contrary, this letter goes signed with my full name. What does "J. M." mean? A man should never be afraid to confront any one when he speaks the truth. I quite concur with "Silver Bullet" in the contrast which he draws.

I still maintain what I have written in the moral point of view, and if any further explanation is desired, I shall be pleased to face anybody who deigns to meet me in Canton in the presence of Sir King, rather than waste my time in written controversy. I am off to-night. As to "J. M.'s" suggestion that I should give \$1,000 to the funds he alluded to, I would advise him to do so himself and publish his name in capital letters so that the wide world may know it. Thanking you, Mr. Editor.—Yours truly,

WM. MUDIE.

HONGKONG WEDDING.

CHAMPKIN-WILSON.

At St. John's Cathedral yesterday afternoon the marriage was solemnized of Mr. Cyril Champkin, manager of the Hongkong branch of the Mercantile Bank of India, younger son of Mr. James Hedges Champkin, of Eastbourne, Sussex, and Miss Constance Gwendolen, only child of Mr. John Boswell Guy Wilson, of Pakefield, Suffolk.

The bride was given away by Mr. Evan Ormiston. Her gown was of Georgette embroidered in silver over chiffon. She was attended by three bridesmaids—Miss Angel Ormiston and the Misses Joyce and Dorothy Holyoak—who wore dresses of white net with yellow sashes, and white net hats with true lovers' knots in yellow panne. They carried baskets of daffodils. The best man was Lieut. L. Murphy, of the Hongkong Volunteers.

There was a large attendance in the Cathedral, the chancel of which had been tastefully decorated with ferns and foliage. The ceremony was of a semi-military nature, the bridegroom being the Captain of "A" Company, Hongkong Volunteer Reserve, to which he has been attached from the Calcutta Rifles. The officers present included Col. Chapman, Major MacDonald, Major Wakeman, Major Robertson, Captain Hall Brutton, Surgeon-Major Black, Captain Carr, Captain Cassell, Captain Lamport, Captain G. G. Wood, Lieut. Moxon, Hancock, Thomas Boswick, Higby, Thornhill, Sutherland, Owen Hughes, Wright, and Evan Jones; and Sergt.-Majors Bond and Dawson.

The congregation also included Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. Glad Severn, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak and Mrs. Holyoak, the Hon. Mr. E. Shellin and Mrs. Shellin, Mr. Tisdall, Mr. N. J. Stabb, Mr. H. Perry Smith, Mr. T. F. Hough, A.S.P. (R. Mounted Section), Mr. Harry Hancock, and Mr. H. Relphs.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. H. Copley Moyle. During the service the hymns "Thine for Ever, God of Love," and "O Perfect Love" were sung, Mr. Denman Fuller, F.R.C.O., presiding at the organ.

As the newly-wedded couple came down the aisle the organist played Mendelssohn's Wedding March, and the bridegroom's brother officers lived up on either side and formed an archway of swords, under which the bridal pair passed, while the bells rang out a merry peal.

A reception was subsequently held at "Derrington," Peak Road, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ormiston. Amongst the many valuable presents received were a gold watch and chain from the Volunteer Reserve and a handsome silver rose bowl from the bridegroom's brother officers.

THE MARRIAGE MARKET.

AMAH AND A BAMBOO POLE.

The falling of a bamboo pole, from a verandah, on to an amah's head was the cause of an action in the Hongkong Summary Court yesterday. Chan Wan, a young and good-looking amah, claimed \$68, and assessed compensation, from Cheung Wing Tsai, a clerk employed by Mr. W. L. Weaver, architect. An amah employed by Cheung Wing Tsai was also named in the writ as second defendant, but she did not appear in Court, and it was announced that upon the issue of the writ this amah, who was supposed to have been responsible for placing the bamboo pole on the verandah, had absconded.

Mr. Lo appeared to prosecute, and Mr. C. F. Mason defended. The writ stated that the plaintiff claims damages for negligence of the defendant, and one Leung U, a servant of the first defendant, in letting fall a bamboo pole from the verandah of a house in Peel Street on to the plaintiff's head, causing considerable injury to the plaintiff, on December 10th, 1916.

The charges set out were:—Rent and medicine at the Tung Wah hospital, \$10; medical expenses after leaving hospital, \$40; loss of wages for one month, \$12. Mr. Mason, on behalf of the defendant, admitted the falling of the bamboo pole, but contended that it was a pure accident, and the only point his Lordship had to decide was one of compensation.

Dr. Thomas, of the Tung Wah Hospital, said that when the amah was admitted she had a big gash on the head, from three to four inches long. The bleeding was somewhat severe. The skull was not injured, but the effects of the shock would last for some time.

Replying to the Puisse Judge, witness said he was not a family man (laughter), and would prefer not to give an opinion as to whether the amah's injuries would seriously prejudice her opportunities in the marriage market. (Laughter.) He would require to keep the woman under observation for some time yet. As to whether her injuries would be of a permanent character, he was not prepared to give an opinion; it was difficult to say. Eventually his Lordship awarded the amah \$120 as compensation, and also her costs.

HONGKONG MAN AT THE FRONT.

NEWS OF "CHINA HANDS."

Mr. P. Sydenham Dixon, formerly of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, writing to Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, says:—

A line or two to let you know that I am at present quartered in a dug-out somewhere on the Western Front and have, so far, managed to elude the intermittent shell-fire.

I crossed on Christmas Eve, along with about 600 other officers of all ranks, and of all sorts and sizes. In my journey to the dug-out I continually ran across "China hands." At one of the Transport Officers seized me by the hand, and he turned out to be a fellow named Storrie, who used to be in Powell's. In the Transport was an R.A.M.C. captain who used to live at the Peak Hotel, and Hamilton of the China Light and Power. On the wharf at a man waved to me. He was Major Wakefield, whom I last saw on the Fall's verandah. In the club at I met Richardson of B. and S., who used to be in the Scouts Coy. In our mess at the Base I saw a lot of letters, with the Hongkong postmark, lying for Reggie Stokes. I left a note for him, but did not meet him, as he was away somewhere.

I was kept two days at the Base; we were kept at it all day doing bombing and bayonet-fighting.

I got orders to join the and spent a whole day in the train, playing bridge in the cattle truck with some officers. At night I was billeted above a butcher's shop in a small French town. As neither the butcher's wife nor I spoke each other's language, our conversation was limited.

I reached our camp the following afternoon, and found that the battalion was about to move up to the trenches. Our march was about seven miles; we began by daylight, but finished up in darkness—with French guides directing us. The country looks somewhat curious, as every farm and church we passed had been smashed to pieces. All the peasants have fled from it, and the only things one meets are soldiers, Red Cross wagons, gun carriages, and lorries.

I share my dug-out with two officers. In private life, one is a Government Official from Kuala Lumpur, and the other is a London solicitor. There is just room to stand upright in the dug-out; we have three camp beds, and a table. After many gallant efforts, our orderlies managed to light a fire. This place is lit by candles all day, and one feels rather like a rabbit.

The men live in two adjoining dug-outs. I take my hat off, metaphorically, to Tommy Atkins every time I see him. He looks extraordinary in his tin helmet, his gas mask, and his very muddy uniform; but he is always cheerful and seems ready for anything.

The feature, to my mind, of the new Army is its youth. One meets any amount of captains aged 20. Our General is 35, and was a Captain before the war. He lives in the cellar of a rather fine chateau. This place has escaped the universal shelling, as it is surrounded by trees. It dates from Louis XIV. and has a splendid banquetting hall, with coasts of arms on its walls.

All day and all night with intervals—one listens to the music of the big guns. No one is allowed to be without his gas mask; slung round him, and elaborate precautions are taken in case of a gas attack.

The life is not a bad one, and at times it has an extremely amusing side. We are always dirty, we are always flopping about in mud; and we usually sleep with our clothes on. One seems to get used to these discomforts, and, in spite of the damp one feels extremely well. I get a lot of amusement out of it and wouldn't be missing it for anything. One meets so many types of men, and they seem to have come from all parts of the world.

An revoir, and every New Year wish to yourself, and all in W. and G.

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.

Mr. Stapleton-Cotton, of the Directorate General of Posts in Peking, left last month to join the army.

News has been received in Yokohama that Mr. W. E. Atwell, who was with the firm of Messrs. Pearson Mackie & Dempster and left Japan last February, has been wounded while serving on the Western front at Beaumont Hamel. He was shot through the shoulder by a sniper.

Mr. S. R. Parker, second son of the Rev. George Parker, China Inland Mission, Honan, has received his commission as Lieutenant and been recommended for the Military Cross (says the C. C. Fort). He got his first promotion at the end of July, when he was wounded when in the trenches, being then made a corporal.

News has been received in Yokohama of the death at a clearing station in France, from wounds received in action, of Mr. J. Barnes, a former member of the staff of the Rising Sun Petroleum Co. Mr. Barnes was stationed at Hakata, Yokohama, and Kobe. He left Kobe in 1915 to offer his services to his country, and was serving at the front with the 7th Sherwood Foresters.

SHANGHAI WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

REASONS WHY CHINESE SHOULD SUBSCRIBE.

SIR E. FRASER ON ANGLO-CHINESE AMITY.

A meeting of the China and Japan War Savings Association was held on February 20th in the office of Messrs. Maitland & Co., when there was a large attendance.

Sir Everard Fraser, K.C.M.G., H.M. Consul General, who presided, said:—When it was suggested that Chinese merchants should be invited to participate in our Association, which has already grown to considerable size, as our Treasurer, who is also our Founder, will tell you, there arose, of course, objections, as objections do arise to novel proposals. These objections may, I think, be boiled down into three. First, Chinese men of business would not like the security since they doubted or disbelieved in our coming victory. It is true that our enemies got the start of the Allies by striking at their own time and that they rushed ahead. It is true that we took long to prepare ourselves for the greatest struggle of history and that we are still struggling hard. It is also true that our enemies, both before and during the war, have spared neither time nor money nor labour in impressing on all neutrals, and especially China, their own invincibility. But we believe that you shrewd men of business have sized up the situation and that you do not believe that those who failed with all the advantages of readiness and surprise to aid them will ever win now that in men and in munitions we have the upper hand.

A minor objection is that our rates of interest are not attractive enough; but this does not matter as regards an investment into which come sympathy and desire to further true civilization. Which brings me to the second objection, that we British have fought with your country and we resident British have held ourselves too much aloof. Yes, 25 years ago our countries were at war—what of it? Did not war help on China's progress from the tide of history had left her, and did it not, especially promote trade good for all of us? I do not forget, of course, the Boxer rising, when foreign troops last appeared in China. Nor, I hope, do you forget the manner in which our present enemies treated your people. It would have been well for the Allies if they had taken that warning to heart.

THE FIRST FOREIGN TRADERS.

Yes, we British were the first foreign traders in these parts where Gordon helped to keep your fathers safe from rebel violence. And in all the half century since this Settlement has attracted your people, who found in it justice and liberty. We may be, we are, stiff and slow, many of us, but at least we have the same tradition as you men of business, the tradition of fair dealing. And our old-fashioned ways, much divided, do not lead to such messes as there were at other ports owing to looser dealing.

We share China's aversion from war and preference for suasion not for force. It is not so long ago that we were scoffed at as the China of Europe. Our civilizations rest on the same basis of duty and right, and we recognize with your sages that the true sovereign rules by assent and not through compulsion. So we ask for your sympathy in practical form with confidence that will not, I'm sure, prove misplaced.

The third objection was that we invited you to unneutral conduct. It is, of course, absurd, since it is the privilege of the neutral to deal with either or both sides as freely as in time of peace, subject to such barriers as either side may place on its own people. I mention this objection simply lest the enemy use it to confuse and delude.

I come here gladly because after a lifetime in China I am as devoted to her interest as any Chinese can be, and everything that draws closer the bonds—the long tried bonds of amity between our countries—is to me a vast joy.

FACILITIES FOR CHINESE MEMBERS.

Mr. E. F. Goodale, Hon. Treasurer, said, *inter alia*:—Your presence in itself is a proof that your sympathy is with the Allies in the gigantic task they have undertaken. After the words you have just listened to from Sir Everard Fraser, I do not think it is possible that you can any longer be content to remain inactive. Your sympathy and moral support are valuable, but your practical aid would be still more valuable. The China and Japan War Savings Association affords you an opportunity of giving practical assistance to the Allies, and to yourselves, at one and the same time.

WHAT CHINA HAS BEEN SPARED.

Mr. W. H. Trenbald Davis explained why the Allies were at war and recalled the Kaiser's speech to his troops who were leaving for China in 1900 in which he said: "Spare nobody, men, women or children; take no prisoners; act generally so that no Chinaman will ever have to look in the face of a German again." The speaker went on to refer to German crimes in the present war, the abominable policy of the enemy and its effect upon China. He also showed his audience that the victory of Germany would mean her tyranny over China as well as other countries.

Mr. Chu Pao-san, Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Committee for so fully explaining the objects and working of the Association. He said that the Chinese sympathized with the Allied cause and would be only too pleased to help.—Y. C. Daily News.

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED A FURTHER CONSIGNMENT

OF

SOLID SILVER

PRESENTATION PLATE

COMPLIMENTARY PRESENTS

TABLE WARE, ETC.

INCLUDING

SWEET DISHES.

CAKE BASKETS.

SALVERS.

CANDLE STICKS.

TOAST RACKS.

TEA SETS.

ETC.

CASED

LIQUEUR SETS.

COFFEE

SERVICES.

TEAS AND TONGS.

BUTTER DISHES.

SUGAR AND

CREAM SETS.

ETC.

ALSO

BEST SHEFFIELD ELECTRO-PLATE

IN LATEST DESIGNS.

CUTLERY CANTEENS.

CASED CARVERS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

18

DRINK

"BULL DOG" LAGER BEER.

SUPERIOR TO ANY GERMAN LAGER BEER EVER BREWED. BRITISH THROUGHOUT.

Brewed in Great Britain.

Bottled by British Labour.

OBTAINABLE AT—

PRICES DUTY PAID.

Wing On Co., Ltd.

QUARTS—\$20.00 per case

Sincere Co., Ltd.

of 4 dozen

San Co., Ltd.

or \$5.10 per dozen

Cheong Tai

Nam Hing Loong

Ty Sing

PINTS—\$26.50 per case

Sang Tai

of 8 dozen

Kwan Tye

or \$3.40 per dozen

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Obtainable in Canton from

Sincere Co., Ltd.

Admitted to be the Best

Stocked by

THE HONGKONG HOTEL

Lager Beer brewed.

FRESH STOCKS JUST ARRIVED.

(94-9)

Wm. Powell Ltd

TELEPHONE 344

S'MART DAY

AND

EVENING GOWNS

AT

SPECIAL PRICES THIS WEEK

TO CLEAR

BEFORE STOCKTAKING.

39

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of Members will be held on MONDAY, March 5th, at the Rooms of the Jockey Club, Hongkong. Club Annals, at 8.15 p.m. [354]

UNION WATERBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the UNION WATERBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the Office of Messrs. DODWELL & CO., LTD., the General Managers of the Company, Queen's Building, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on FRIDAY, the ninth day of March, 1917, at 11.30 o'clock a.m. for the purpose of proposing, considering, and if thought fit, passing an Extraordinary Resolution the following Resolutions, that is to say:

(1) That the issued Capital of the Company be Reduced from \$27,230 (Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Dollars) Divided into 27,230 (Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty) Shares of \$10 (Ten Dollars) each, to \$18,461 (One Hundred and Ninety-Four Thousand and Sixty-One Dollars) Divided into 27,230 (Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty) Shares of \$7 (Seven Dollars) each, and that such Reduction be effected by Retaining (on such date as the Company's General Managers shall appoint) to the holders of the 27,230 (Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty) Shares that have been issued and paid up Capital to the extent of \$8 (Eight Dollars) per Share and by Reducing the nominal amount of each of the said Shares from \$10 (Ten Dollars) to \$7 (Seven Dollars).

(2) That application be made to the Supreme Court of Hongkong to confirm the Reduction of the Capital of the Company in conformity with the foregoing Resolution. Should the above Resolutions be passed by the requisite majority, they will be submitted for confirmation as Special Resolutions to a Second Extraordinary General Meeting which will be subsequently convened.

Dated this 24th day of March, 1917.
DODWELL & CO., LTD.,
General Managers [355]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

THE FINAL DIVIDEND DECLARED for the Year ending 31st December, 1916, at the rate of Two Pounds Three Shillings Sterling, together with a Bonus of Ten Shillings Sterling per Share, is Payable on and after MONDAY, the 26th day of February, Current, at the Office of the Corporation, where shareholders are requested to apply for Warrants. By Order of the Board of Directors,
N. J. STARR,
Chief Manager. [357]

QUEEN MARY'S NEEDLEWORK GUILD.

LADY MAY, President of the Guild in this Colony, invites all Ladies interested in the organization of working parties for war work - whether in connection with War Charities Committee or not - to attend a Meeting at Government House on WEDNESDAY, 7th March, at 10.30 a.m. for the discussion of matters of general interest. [356]

HONGKONG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL SHOW OF FLOWERS and VEGETABLES, to be held in the Botanic Gardens.

THURSDAY, the 8th March, at 2 to 6 p.m.

Admission \$1.

Lady May will present the Prizes at 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, the 9th March, at 10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission 50 Cents.

At 3 to 6 p.m.

Admission 20 Cents.

The Band of the 18th Punjab will play on both days.

Tickets will be obtainable on the Ground.

A. NICOL,
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 28th February, 1917. [351]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at St. George's Buildings, Queen's Road, Victoria, on SATURDAY, the 10th March, 1917, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1916, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 5th March, 1917, until SATURDAY, the 10th March, 1917, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN TOMES & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1917. [344]

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, AND REDUCED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from THURSDAY, 1st March, to SATURDAY, 3rd March, 1917, both days inclusive. The return of Capital of \$250 per Share will be paid to Shareholders on and after the 14th March, 1917, on presentation of Share Certificates for endorsement. By Order of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Hongkong, 22nd February, 1917. [329]

INTIMATIONS

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

RACE MEETING, 1917.

TO-MORROW (SATURDAY) (OFF-DAY), 3rd March.

TICKETS of ADMISSION to the GRAND STAND and ENCLOSURE may be obtained from Messrs. KELLY & WALES, LTD., or at the Gate. Price for the Off-Day, \$3. No one admitted without a Ticket, to be shown to the Ticket Inspector at the Gate. T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.
Hongkong, 23rd February, 1917. [330]

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE STEWARDS request the pleasure of the presence of the LADIES at the GRAND STAND and the ENCLOSURE during the Races.

A Stand and Enclosure will be reserved for Members and Members' Wives and Families, Tickets for which are being sent out with the Members' Tickets. All Tickets must be produced to gain admission. Special accommodation will be reserved in its recent years for Chinese Ladies and their Female attendants in the Stand erected on the plot of ground next to the Jockey Club Stand.

T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.
Hongkong, 23rd February, 1917. [331]

NOTICE.

A PROPOS of the above, Members are hereby notified that although Membership of the JOCKEY CLUB entitles them to free admission to the Enclosure and Stand during the Race Meeting, an opportunity is given to them to make a special contribution to the War Charities by also purchasing an admission Ticket at the Gate. A Book will be in care of the Gate Keeper in which Members are asked to record any such purchases.

T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.
Hongkong, 23rd February, 1917. [332]

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

NO Servants will be allowed inside the ENCLOSURE of the Race Course during the Race Days WITHOUT TICKETS, which can be had on application to the Under-Secretary. These Tickets are only available for Servants while in attendance on their employers or when on duty at the various Stands. Any Chinese or foreigner, following about with Servants' passes in their possession will forfeit them, and the holders thereof will be removed from the Enclosure.

T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.
Hongkong, 23rd February, 1917. [333]

WANTED.

ENGINEER, Br. abstrainer, for Harbours or Ship. Shop. Apply in own writing with copy etc., stating age and salary required to—
W. S. BAILEY & Co., Ltd.,
Kowloon. [108]

UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG.

MATRICULATION, SENIOR AND JUNIOR LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that these EXAMINATIONS will be commenced on MONDAY, July 9th, 1917. Arrangements will be made to hold the Examination at any town where a sufficient number of candidates offer themselves. Candidates who wish to be examined at any other place than Hongkong or Shanghai must apply to the Registrar on or before April 2nd, 1917.

Forms of entry and all particulars can be obtained on application to the REGISTRAR, THE UNIVERSITY, HONGKONG. The entry form, duly filled in, must reach the Registrar, together with the fee (Ten Dollars, Hongkong Currency) on or before May 2nd, 1917.

The following Scholarships and Prizes will be awarded on the results of the Matriculation Examination, provided that candidates of sufficient merit offer themselves—
(a) Two King Edward VII. Scholarships of 240 a year each, for five years, tenable in any Faculty. A Candidate for these Scholarships must be under the age of 21 on July 1st, and must before the first day of the Examination submit to the Registrar proof that he is a British subject.

(b) One President's Scholarship of Four Hundred Dollars (Peking Currency) for five years, tenable in any Faculty. A Candidate for this Scholarship must be under the age of 21 years on July 1st, and must before the first day of the Examination submit to the Registrar proof that he is the son of Chinese Parents; that he was not born in any British Possession or Protectorate; that he has not adopted any foreign nationality; and that he is not eligible to compete for a King Edward VII. Scholarship.

(c) Two Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Scholarships of 300 Dollars a year each, for 4 years, tenable in the Faculty of Engineering. These Scholarships will be awarded to poor students who would otherwise be unable to enter the University.

(d) Five cash prizes of \$100 each (Hongkong Currency). Candidates who secure King Edward VII. or President's Scholarships or cash prizes must enter the University on the day on which the University Session opens and must reside in one of the hostels directly managed by the University.

The Examinations will be conducted according to the Regulations for the Senior and Junior Local Examinations and for the Matriculation Examination, 1917. [345]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET—IMMEDIATELY.

LARGE OFFICE, Centrally Situated in Queen's Road, fully partitioned and fitted with electric light, telephone and sub-exchange.
Apply—
"X. Y. Z."
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [322]

TO LET.

NO. 45, ELGIN STREET, 4 Room House. From 1st April.
Apply to—
DR. M. E. ASGER,
New Post Office Building. [329]

TO LET.

2 NEW HOUSES now Building in Conduit Road. Ready for occupation on 1st February, 1917. For rent and other particulars apply to—
H. M. H. NEMAZEE,
1 De Vaux Road. [106]

TO LET.

NO. 42, ELGIN STREET.
Apply to—
FERCY SMITH, BETH & FLEMING. [102]

TO LET—AT THE PEAK.

FURNISHED, 3 Stewart Terrace.
Apply—
H. E. POLLOCK,
Princes' Buildings. [97]

TO LET.

FLATS in "EWO MESS," No. 6, THE Apply Property Office.
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd. [80]

TO LET.

GODOWN in Duddell Street. Light and airy Offices overlooking Statue Square. Moderate rent.
For rent and other particulars apply to—
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [86]

TO LET.

OFFICES, 1st Floor, St. George's Hall. Apply to—
SHEWAN TOMES & Co. [69]

TO LET.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon. A FLAT in Humphreys Buildings, Kowloon.

TO LET OR FOR SALE.
KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48 with wharf area 56,000 sq. ft., suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godowns.
Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings. [301]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central. OFFICES in King's and York Buildings. HOUSES in Chitton Gardens, Conduit Road. HOUSES in Broadwood and Marston Terraces. HOUSES on Shamone, Canton.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY Co., Ltd. [128]

TO LET.

NO. 3, CAMERON VILLAS, No. 63, THE "ELANDONAN" No. 54, THE PEAK (Furnished).
No. 3, GOUGH HILL (No. 102, THE PEAK), Furnished, for 3 or 4 months from 1st June, 1917.

No. 25, SHELLEY STREET.
8-ROOMED HOUSE at Mount Kallet. Furnished for 6 or 8 months.

No. 12, BEAUCHAMPEL ARCADE SHOP.
No. 3, CAMERON VILLAS, 63, PEAK. KELLETT, CREST, 66 PEAK.

No. 25, BEAUCHAMPEL TERRACE, with entrance on Conduit Road.
TWO GODOWNS in Duddell Street.
No. 2, DES VEAUX VILLAS, 51, PEAK (Unfurnished).

No. 54, THE PEAK (CAMERON VILLAS).
Apply to—
LIVINGSTON & DAVIS,
2nd Floor, Alexandra Building. [30]

NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the GENERAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. daily.
Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.

All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.
The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50. [58]

INTIMATION

WATSON'S OLD BROWN BRANDY

QUALITY.



25 YEARS IN WOOD.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD..

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

TELEPHONE 616.

MARRIAGE.
CHAMPAIN—WILSON—On 1st March, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. H. Copley Moyle, CYRILL, younger son of JAMES HUGHES CHAMPAIN, of Eastbourne, to CONSTANCE GWYNEDOLE, only child of JOHN BOWEN, GUY WILSON, of Pakefield, Lowestoft. [336]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, DES VEAUX ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 121, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG 2ND MARCH, 1917.

CHINA, JAPAN AND THE WAR.

China's protest against Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare took the Japanese Press rather by surprise. In the past the general view in Japan has been that China had best remain not only neutral but even so-called as far as the war was concerned, and while now accepting the protest, there are still many influential papers which strongly oppose any further step by China. This appears to be an echo of the policy of the last Japanese Cabinet, which certainly was aware from China being released from leading strings. The new Cabinet, however, is endeavouring to turn over a new leaf in Japan's China policy, and there is little doubt that it would view with equanimity even an open declaration of war by China against Germany. To what cause is this change of policy to be ascribed? While fully recognising the benefit that Japan must derive from the adoption of suaver methods towards China, there would also seem to be a feeling in the Japanese Government's mind that the elimination of German influence in the Far East can only be accomplished by China entering the war. That China has up to now been a hotbed for German intrigues there can be little doubt. The anomalous situation created by the continuation of the payment of the German share of the Boxer indemnity has provided the intrigues with plenty of means to carry on their propaganda, while the system of extra-territoriality has given them a shelter from under which they could spit

their venom at the Allies and poison the Chinese mind with lies as to the nature of the struggle. Besides the foreign sheets which are distinctly and openly pro-German, there are undoubtedly many others which attempt to spread German views by more insidious means. German gold has been scattered wherever it was thought that it would be of avail. The existence of such a centre for the diffusion of German influence in the Far East must inevitably have affected Japan. Indeed, it is well-known that up to quite recently a large flood of pro-German literature has poured into that country and has even been publicly distributed, such distribution being rendered easier by the fact that Japan has allowed the German residents not only to remain in the country but, also, to carry on their business as far as they are able. A censorate over communications addressed to or sent by enemy nationals has now been established in Japan, and, if reports are to be trusted, a measure to prevent any trading with enemy nationals is also being drawn up. Presumably this, like the British Order-in-Council, will not prohibit the Germans from renting houses or obtaining provisions, but it will be strict enough to prevent Germans hiding behind Japanese in their endeavours to carry on business, and, generally, acting inimically to the interests of the country in which they are resident. The considerations which have made it necessary to frame measures for controlling the Germans resident in Japan would seem to have led the Japanese Government to the conclusion that similar measures should also be in force in China, which, of course, can only be accomplished by a breach in the diplomatic relations between China and Germany. The task before China in this respect is, however, as much more difficult one than that which confronts Japan, because while Japanese rule runs throughout the Empire Chinese rule does not run throughout China. China would, presumably, follow Japan's example in allowing Germans to reside in the country, being also guided in this matter by the United States, which would certainly not be able to turn a blind eye to her large German population. But the Germans in the strictly German settlements would either have to come under Chinese law or be left in a lawless condition. In the latter case they might easily prove a danger to the peace by encouraging the lawless Chinese to activity. Whether the other Powers would approve of Germany being deprived of all extra-territorial rights in China is a moot question; it is possible that they would regard such a procedure as forming a precedent for similar future action against themselves, although, on the other hand, the desire to crush German influence might lead to their assent. An alternative would be for China to take over control of the German Settlements during the remainder of the war and restore them to the Germans on its termination. In the International Settlements the task of controlling the Germans would be still more difficult, owing to China's lack of jurisdiction, and, presumably, an arrangement would have to be made with the Allied nations to enable the Chinese Government to exercise special powers *pro tempore*. At any rate, however matters were arranged, the stoppage of German supplies of cash would greatly decrease the enemy's activities, to the benefit not only of China but also of Japan.

The Bishop of Victoria will deliver his second Lent Lecture to Ladies at St. Paul's College at 10.45 a.m. to-day (Friday), the subject being "Self-discipline." On Sunday next he is to address the students of St. John's Hall at 9.15 a.m., preach and celebrate Holy Communion at St. Paul's Chinese Church at 11 a.m., and preach at the Cathedral at 6 p.m.

On Sunday next the feast of the Cross will be celebrated in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. High Solemn Mass will be conducted by the Rev. Rector of the Cathedral, assisted by a Deacon and sub-Deacon. The sermon after the Gospel will be preached by the Rev. Father Lucas, of the Salesian Congregation of Macao (if he arrives here on Saturday). In the evening at 8 o'clock there will be a grand procession round the compound of the Cathedral, accompanied by a Detachment of No. 3 Company of the Police Reserve with the Band. A magnificent image of our Lord carrying the Cross will be borne by the confreres of the Confraternity of "N. S. dos Passos," followed by the relics of *Lignum Crucis*. A special sermon will be preached after the procession by the Rev. Father Lucas, the service concluding with the solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

THEFT OF A TELESCOPE.

Two Chinese employes in the Military Hospital were charged before Mr. Molbourne, one with stealing and the other with receiving a telescope from the hospital.

It was stated that the telescope belonged to a corporal of the R.A.M.C., stationed at the hospital. It was sold by the first defendant to the other defendant for 20 cents.

The first defendant said he thought the telescope was broken and of no further use, and the second that he had been informed that the instrument had been given to the first defendant.

A fine of \$10 was imposed on each.

OPIUM CHARGE.

A Chinese pleaded guilty before Mr. Wood yesterday afternoon to a charge of having in his possession 65 tael of prepared opium other than Government opium and 80 tael of opium dross.

Mr. Crow, who appeared as solicitor for the defendant, said that the defendant had arrived on a steamer which recently came into port, and, although he admitted that he intended to take the opium into China, he was not informed that the drug was contraband in Hongkong.

Evidence having been heard, his Worship imposed a fine of \$1,500 for the possession of the prepared opium, or, in default, six months' hard labour, and for the possession of the opium dross a fine of \$500 or, as an alternative, three months' hard labour.

ALLEGED ILLEGAL POSSESSION.

Three Chinese—the chief cook and two stewards on board the s.s. *Tenyo Maru*—were charged before Mr. Wood with being in possession of firearms and ammunition without permits.

Evidence was given as to the finding of nine revolvers, all new and each enclosed in a box, and 400 rounds of revolver ammunition, in the store-room of the ship.

Each of the defendants denied responsibility for the contents of the store-room, and said they had no knowledge of the revolvers and ammunition being there.

As there was no sufficient evidence to convict any of the defendants with possession of the articles, Mr. Wood dismissed them. The revolvers and ammunition, of course, remain in the possession of the authorities.

AN ECHO OF THE RACES.

A Chinese charged with snatching a sum of \$6 in notes, from the pocket of another Chinese at a market stand on the race course on Monday, alleged conspiracy on the part of the complainant and the watchman who arrested him.

The former came up to him and thrust the notes into his (defendant's) outside breast-pocket. Defendant plucked them out and held them out to complainant, who, however, refused to take them back. Defendant then threw them on the ground. Complainant picked them up and told the watchman, who was standing by, that he could now give evidence of the theft.

Complainant's story was that while he was looking at the race programme defendant came up behind him and snatched the notes, which were partly exposed in his pocket.

Mr. Wood declined to believe defendant's version of the occurrence, and sentenced him to three months' hard labour.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Gymkhana Club will be held next Monday evening.

Normal cable communication with North and South America, etc., "via Pacific" is now restored.

The death, at Yokohama, is announced of Mr. T. E. Beatty, an old resident who arrived in Japan in the seventies.

The total output of the Kailash Mining Administration's mines for the week ending 17th February amounted to 53,638 tons and the sales to 42,723 tons.

We learn on excellent authority (says the *T. & T. Times*) that a meeting of merchants, bankers, and other business men in Tientsin City resolved to withdraw all monies lodged with the German Bank in Tientsin.

THE WAR.

AMERICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

THE "LACONIA" OUTRAGE: STATEMENT BY SURVIVORS.

GERMAN RETREAT IN FRANCE: A TRIUMPH FOR BRITISH ARMY.

"MENTION" OF HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE BRITISH PUSH.

LATEST REPORTS OF PROGRESS.

LONDON, February 28th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communiqué, says:—This morning we captured a portion of trench on the north-east of Sully-Sillial and took 85 prisoners.

We occupied Gommeourt and captured the villages of Thilloz, Puisieux-Aumont, with trench systems adjoining, and pushed our line a thousand yards north-eastward of Gommeourt.

During a raid in the neighbourhood of Clery we reached the second line, and also entered positions on the north-east of Arras and south-east of Lens.

We repulsed a raid on the north-east of Arras.

EARLIER CABLES.

SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS CONTINUES.

LONDON, February 27th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communiqué, says:—We further progressed and captured Le Barque.

We occupied Ligny and established ourselves in the western and northern defences of Puisieux au Mont.

We conducted a raid to the south-west of Lens and also to the east of Arras. On a half-mile front we entered three lines of trenches and considerably damaged the defences.

LATEST CABLES.

GERMAN REPORT.

BRITISH REPULSED.

LONDON, February 28th.
A German official report states:—The British were repulsed between Le Transloy and Sully. Fighting continues now at two points on our first-line trenches.

COMBATS ACCORDING TO GERMAN PLANS.

LONDON, February 28th.
A wireless German official report states:—There have been infantry combats in accordance with our five plans on the Ancre.

The French surprised and captured a river post on the Aisne and were driven out.

THE GERMAN RETREAT. "UNQUALIFIED TRIUMPH FOR BRITISH ARMY."

LONDON, February 28th.
Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters, writing on the 28th, says that the Germans are still retreating along the whole line between Gommeourt and Transloy, and the British are everywhere in close contact. The weather cleared for a time to-day for the first time in ten days, permitting aeroplanes to get photographs which should indicate the direction of the withdrawal.

It is now probable that the Germans will not stop till they reach the line Arras-Cambrai, as the ceaseless British pressure threatens to prevent them retaining Bapaume Ridge.

The German retreat may tactically, and temporarily, improve the enemy's position, but strategically the enemy are for the first time admitting defeat, and the retreat is an unqualified triumph for the British Army.

The Near East.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

MESOPOTAMIA.

MORE BRITISH SUCCESSES.

LONDON, February 28th.
A Mesopotamia official report states:—Close pursuit of the enemy is being steadily maintained. On Monday our advanced troops engaged the enemy in the afternoon from three sides at a point on the left bank of the Tigris over 30 miles west and north-west of Kut. The enemy abandoned quantities of arms and equipment and threw four howitzers into the river.

We re-captured the gun-boat *Firefly*, lost in the retreat from Ctesiphon, also captured a Turkish ship and destroyed another. On Sunday we secured 360 prisoners and on Monday 161.

THE CROSSING OF THE TIGRIS.

LONDON, February 28th.
Mr. Edmund Candler, the war correspondent, describing the crossing of the Tigris on the 23rd February, says it was carried out at three different points. The leading boat of the regiment, crossing at the highest point, got within a few yards of the north bank before being observed by the enemy pickets, who sharply fired for a few minutes, but their fire was quickly overcome and the boat landed. Within an hour the enemy artillery was busy, but with little effect. Two Gurkha regiments further downstream were landed as they landed and a bombing match ensued between boat and bank. Notwithstanding this, and intense artillery fire, the troops joined up with the British, who had landed a mile away.

The combined force advanced, sweeping the enemy ahead. A bridge over the stream, which is 340 yards broad, with a current of five knots an hour, was completed within eight hours. Surrendered Turkish admit that they thought the bridging of the stream impossible.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN OFFER TO HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM, February 28th.
The German Legation has informed the Government that Germany is willing to place German ships at Holland's disposal during the war as compensation for the seven torpedoed steamers, on the understanding that Holland will negotiate for the eventual purchase, after the war, of the vessels.

GERMAN REPORT.

AIR AND SEA ACTIVITY.

LONDON, February 28th.
A German official report states:—A German submarine successfully bombed an enemy transport in the North Aegean Sea.

A German submarine, on the 15th February, heavily bombed works at Forges-de-laour near Bayonne, causing several fires, and returned safely.

DUTCH VESSELS LOST.

LONDON, February 28th.
The Dutch vessels *Bendang*, *Perland* and *Zandijk* are now regarded as lost.

NAVAL AIR RAIDS.

LONDON, February 28th.
The Admiralty announces that naval aeroplanes raided Honwork and Brebach, south-eastward of Saarbrücken on the 25th inst.

There were several air fights, and one enemy machine was destroyed.

A WEEK'S "FRIGHTFULNESS."

RETURN OF BRITISH SAILINGS, ARRIVALS AND LOSSES.

LONDON, February 28th.
The Press Bureau has issued the following report:—Arrivals during the week ending February 25th of merchantmen of all nationalities at ports in the United Kingdom of over 100 tons, exclusive of fishing and local craft, 2,280; sailings, 2,361. British merchantmen of 1,600 tons and upwards sunk by mine or submarine, 15; British merchantmen under 1,600 tons, sunk by mine or submarine, 6; British merchantmen successfully attacked, 12; fishing vessels sunk, 4.

EARLIER CABLES. TORPEDOING OF THE "LACONIA." AMERICAN VICTIMS.

LONDON, February 28th.
The two American ladies, victims of the *Laconia*, were among seven who died of exposure out of the twenty-one occupants of a water-logged boat.

A priest on board stated that the boat hit the *Laconia*'s stern when being lowered. Planks burst asunder and the boat drifted without oars or rudder, with water up to the gunwale, from ten at night to three in the following afternoon. Everybody crowded into the bows and stern. Waves washed some overboard, while others, including an American negro, died, and were thrown into the sea, as the weight of their bodies would have endangered the water-logged boat. While the priest was giving this interview, a lady by his side was sobbing bitterly. She is an actress coming to England to be married, and she saw her fiancé die in the boat.

ANOTHER "LUSITANIA" CASE.

WASHINGTON, February 28th.
Official dispatches confirm the deaths of Americans on the *Laconia*, thus establishing an overt act. It is regarded as another *Lusitania* case. President Wilson and the State Department officials consider that no steps should be taken until Congress acts.

AUTHORITY TO ARM MERCHANTMEN.

President Wilson's request for authority to arm merchantmen, and the sinking of the *Laconia*, will hasten the action of Congress. Committees of both Houses have been busy re-drafting the Bill, but it is now expected that they will acquiesce in the Government's wish that the Bill be passed practically without change.

SURVIVORS' STORIES.

One hundred and sixty-five of the crew of the *Laconia* have crossed from Dublin to Liverpool. The majority of them were on the previously torpedoed *Frankonia*.

Further stories by the survivors confirm the statement that the vessel was twice torpedoed. She was first hit in the stern. The captain ordered that all lights should be turned on to facilitate the escape of the passengers and crew. The vessel listed and the righted, afterwards sinking slowly. The submarine re-appeared and fired a torpedo at the engine-room, though the boats were close by and were quite visible in the blaze of electricity. The *Laconia* sank immediately. The captain and several officers had to take to the water and swim.

Subsequently, the submarine bobbed up astern of a boat crowded with women and children and demanded the captain. They received an evasive answer and finally vanished.

The steward kept the occupants of one boat alive with imitations of Harry Lauder and other comedians, forcing them all to take up the chorus, till they were picked up.

A BRAVE CAPTAIN.

DEFEAT OF "MODERN BARBARIANS."

BORDEAUX, February 28th.
The reception of the *Oreana* was most enthusiastic. The vessel, heading other notable persons, boarded the vessel, and addressing the captain said:—"Your courageous action is tantamount to a defeat of the modern barbarians."

A procession was formed and escorted the captain and crew, who lunched at the Town Hall, crowds cheering and throwing flowers.

SINKINGS.

LONDON, February 28th.
Additional week-end sinkings of the following steamers are announced:—*Benetent*, *Jer*, *Placon*, *Grenadier*, *Longbird*, *Trojan Prince* (British).

The captain and six of the crew of the *Grenadier* were killed.

The total tonnage amounts to about 14,000.

THE DUTCH SINKINGS.

OFFICERS' ACCOUNT OF THE OUTRAGE.

LONDON, February 28th.
Officers of the torpedoed Dutch steamer *Benland*, interviewed in London, state that simultaneously with the submarine's order for the vessel to stop a torpedo was fired, just missing the *Benland*'s stern. The captain, replying in the darkness to the peremptory command to quit the ship, said:—"We are for the Dutch Government."

The only answer was "five minutes." The submarine was exceptionally large and had two gun mounds on her. "We had to leave everything behind, even the ship's papers. We drifted in boats for twelve hours, till a British vessel at six in the morning. The submarine commander made the officers of another Dutch boat take the bombs to destroy the *Benland*, but first of all they pillaged for wine and food."

The newspapers express horror at the outrage and sympathy with the Dutch nation, but emphasize that the Dutch victims placed their reliance on German promises and disregarded the protection of the British Admiralty. They are of opinion that Germany is exploiting Holland because of her anxiety to keep out of the war, and are turning the screw to see how much their victim will stand. They are possibly seeking to make an excuse for a piratical food raid on Holland.

The newspapers point out that neutrals, Scandinavia included, must now see the mistake of not finding a basis for a common defence against the brigand Empire. They also speculate on the attitude of the United States, but do not expect any action therefrom.

NEWSPAPER PRICES INCREASED.

LONDON, February 28th.
The *Daily Mail* has announced that it will increase its price to a penny, and an announcement in the *Observer* states that the price of that paper henceforth will be twopenny.

The Italians.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN CLAIMS.

CAPTURE OF HEIGHTS AND PRISONERS.

LONDON, February 28th.
We captured several Russian heights on the wooded Carpathians on both sides of the Yalput Road and took 1,300 prisoners. The Italians strongly attacked hill positions in the Cerna salient, on the east of Paralova, and failed, with sanguinary losses.

Russian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

PETROGRAD, February 28th.
A wireless Russian official message states:—The enemy attacked on both sides of the Jacobeni and Kimpolung highroad, and occupied heights two miles south-west of Valeputa. We counter-attacked and recovered a portion of the heights.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

INDIA'S PRACTICAL LOYALTY.

LONDON, February 28th.
The Government has gratefully accepted the Government of India's offer of £100,000 towards the general cost of the war.

COMPULSORY RATIONING.

LONDON, February 28th.
In the House of Commons, Colonel Balfour stated that the scheme for compulsory rationing was ready to be put into operation if necessary.

CAPE COLOURED BOYS.

FOR SERVICE IN FRANCE.

PETROGRAD, March 1st.
At the request of the War Office the Director of War Recruiting is raising 5,400 Cape Coloured Boys for service in France as transport drivers.

THE INTEGRITY OF PERSIA.

LONDON, March 1st.
In the House of Commons, in reply to Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Balfour stated that the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907 was still in force, and no contingent arrangement to modify its character would in any wise affect the integrity and independence of Persia.

INDIA AND EGYPT.

MAHARAJAH VISITS SULTAN.

CANNO, March 1st.
The Maharajah of Bikanir arrived and was met by representatives of the Sultan and the High Commissioner. The Maharajah visited the latter and afterwards proceeded to Assuan, the Sultan placing two luxurious steamers at his disposal.

A FRANCO-BRITISH CONFERENCE.

HELD AT CALAIS.

PARIS, February 28th.
An official report states that a Franco-British conference was held at Calais on the 26th and 27th instants, at which Mr. Briand and General Lytton, and Mr. Neville represented France, and Mr. Lloyd George, General Robertson and Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig represented Great Britain.

EXIT BEENSTORFF.

HAARLEM, NOVA SCOTIA, Feb. 28th.
Count Beenstorff has sailed by the *s.s. Frederick VIII*.

AMERICA AND SUBMARINISM.

WAR INSURANCE OF MUNITION SHIPS.

WASHINGTON, March 1st.
The House of Representatives in Committee have amended the Bill to authorize the supply to merchant ships of defensive arms and also adequate means of protection, including war risks and insurance, (mentioned on the 28th February), by omitting the words "other instrumentalities," thus prohibiting the Government from the war insurance of munition ships. Hence a conference of both Houses will, possibly, be necessary to finally draft the Bill.

SENATE'S OPINION.

WASHINGTON, February 28th.
On the recommendation of the Foreign Relations Committee the Senate has agreed to the Bill empowering the President to arm American merchantmen defensively fore and aft, and granted \$240,000,000 sterling for that purpose. The Senate also empowered the President to use "other instrumentalities."

AUSTRIA CONCURS.

AMSTERDAM, February 28th.
In the Reichstag Herr Westarp, a Conservative member, stated that Austria fully supported Germany's submarine policy.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS. MENTIONED FOR VALUABLE SERVICES.

LONDON, February 28th.
The *Gazette* mentions the valuable services, in connection with the war, of the following Hongkong Volunteers and Volunteer Reserves:—
Lieut.-Colonel A. Chapman (O. C. Hongkong Volunteers).
Major G. H. Wakeman (O. C. H.K.V.R.).
Sergeant Major G. B. Black (Medical Officer of the Volunteer Corps).
Captain E. J. Barrett (Shanghai).
Captain G. K. Hall-Brutton (H.K.V.R.).
Captain G. P. Lammer (Hongkong Volunteers).
Captain W. Russell (Hongkong Volunteers).
Lieut. R. Hall (Hongkong Volunteers).
Armourer-Sergeant G. W. Avenell (Hongkong Volunteers).
Sergeant Major L. Cooke (H.K.V.R.).
Lieut. W. Higby (Hongkong Volunteers).
Sergeant Major G. W. Kynoch (Hongkong Volunteers).
Quartermaster-Sergeant E. W. Dawson (H.K.V.R.).
Sergeant H. F. Haines (Hongkong Volunteers).
Sergeant W. J. Hill (Hongkong Volunteers).
The names are also mentioned of Captain L. E. Canning, of the Shanghai Volunteers, and Major W. S. Nathan.

LATEST CABLES.

PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS.

A ONE SIDED BARGAIN.

LONDON, February 28th.
In the House of Commons, Mr. Hope, in stating objections to wholesale exchange of Anglo-German civilian prisoners, said that many of the German prisoners were Reservists and quite fit militarily, while nearly all were fit for national service in Germany. He emphasized that the only proposal for wholesale exchange acceptable to Germany was 35,000 prisoners in the United Kingdom, the Dominions and the Colonies against 4,000 in Germany.

SILVER.

LONDON, February 28th.
Silver is quoted at 37s. Indian silver is quiet.

THE BRITISH SUCCESSES.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM PRESIDENT POINCARÉ.

PARIS, February 28th.
President Poincaré has sent a telegraphic message to King George congratulating him on the splendid British successes in France and at Kut-el-Amara.

THE DUMA RE-OPENS.

PETROGRAD, February 28th.
The Duma has re-assembled. There were a few street demonstrations, which were dispersed.

MORE GERMAN BOMBAST.

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM OF THE OCEANS.

AMSTERDAM, February 27th.
Speaking in the Reichstag the German Chancellor asserted that Germany had tried as much as possible to alleviate neutral shipping difficulties by the establishment of the barred zones, and was attempting to supply neutrals with coal and iron. All these difficulties were caused by England's tyranny on the seas. He said:—"We will and shall break this enslavement of all non-English trade and declared that the decision in regard to the barred zone is irrevocable. 'We are fighting for the freedom of the oceans which will also be most advantageous to neutrals.'"

The Chancellor accused President Wilson of brusquely breaking off relations with Germany, and said Mr. Gerard only communicated the decision to the Foreign Secretary verbally and then asked for passports. He (the Chancellor) declared that the procedure adopted was without precedent, and he was forced, in the absence of official documents, to rely on Reuter's version of President Wilson's message to Congress on February 23rd. He had registered a protest against the President's arguments.

JOHN CHINAMAN: A TRIBUTE.

John Chinaman, my Boy, John, when we were first acquainted,
Your hair was like a cloth-line, with
gloss and black silk blent;
They say you've lost in merit, John, I
know you've lost your queue.
But I often wonder, wanting you, what
ever should we do!

John Chinaman, my Cook, John, you
got your share of squeeze;
You know my rice is number one, you
like my taste in tea:
But when I bring a party home you never
turn a hair,
And the soup and fish turn up from—
well, I'm sure I don't know where.

John Chinaman, my Coolie, your smile
is very bland,
You always say "My Savvy" when you
least can understand;
You think that "Fishes, hurry up!"
means "Slower, if you please!"
But should I do as well as you had I to
leave a Chinese!

John Chinaman, my Boy, John, you are a
trying soul,
And yet I can't help feeling that I like
you on the whole;
And though you seem to do your best to
worry and annoy,
In England side I'll often wish I had
my Chinese boy.

K.H.M. in *Union Church Guild Magazine*.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY AT SHANGHAI. THE PRESIDENT ON AN IRISH- MAN'S DUTY.

An excellent speech on the duty of Irishmen, in the present crisis was delivered at the annual general meeting of the St. Patrick's Society, Shanghai, on February 21st, by Mr. H. O. Simms, the president.

After mentioning that the total amount added to the funds during the year was \$510.10 which brought the total funds up to \$5,693.55, and that the whole of the Society's investments are in Exchequer bonds, he proceeded:—On May 2nd last, one of the largest and most successful meetings of Irishmen took place in connection with the "Self-Defence" movement when 119 Irishmen in no uncertain way dissociated themselves from that movement.

At this annual meeting of our national society I make no apology for touching on the war, and the attitude of Ireland towards bringing this great struggle to a successful conclusion. I am addressing Irishmen who have had the advantage of seeing something of the world and of mixing with people of various nationalities with a consequent opportunity of possessing a wider vision than is the case with many of our countrymen at home, therefore I feel I can talk to you freely and frankly on this subject.

We all know there is still an atmosphere of misunderstanding in Ireland which prejudices that enthusiasm which ought to be displayed towards the war when we bear in mind the high purpose for which the Allies are fighting. I do not suggest that this state of affairs is wholly the fault of Irishmen. A people with strong national sentiments expect these sentiments to be treated sympathetically and not to be unduly curbed. National aspirations are not incompatible with loyalty to the Empire. The Colonies afford the best evidence of this. What is required is a more complete understanding of the Irish people on the part of those responsible for the good government of the country. On the other hand, Irishmen themselves must make a supreme effort to adjust their differences in a spirit of conciliation based on justice and equity. There should be a removal of that narrow bigotry which has done so much in the past to separate Irishmen. Seeing that we have to live together it is not likely to contribute towards that peace and goodwill which is the message our patron saint has handed down to us through the ages.

We have already shown that we have no sympathy with a small section of our people whose political views are exaggerated and unrealistic, a section which has done Ireland great disservice in re-establishing the present atmosphere of suspicion and distrust.

What I do say is that this is not the time to try and fix the responsibility for the unsatisfactory position in our country. What rests on us is the responsibility of doing what we can to facilitate the task of getting Ireland into line with the rest of the Empire, so that the may go down to history as having taken an honourable part in this great struggle for freedom from aggression. Ireland cannot stand aside and selfishly enjoy the security of the Empire, nor can she leave a portion of her people who have been upholding her highest traditions to bear the brunt in this fight for the liberty of the world. Ireland must be whole-hearted and bear her full share of the Empire's burden.

Just as there is in the case of Labour a postponement of those reforms necessary to bring conflicting interests together in order to concentrate the greatest effort on the successful prosecution of the war, so a truce to all political disputes is urgently needed in Ireland. Gentlemen, the present is not a convenient time to inaugurate changes when the Empire is face to face with a fight for existence. Certain administrative measures dealing with the situation in Ireland have gone some way towards arriving at a better understanding, and we should leave it at that for the present, with confidence that the present Government seriously means to settle the Irish question.

That characteristic generosity for which the Irish nation is deservedly famous bids us not to take advantage of the Empire's pre-occupation in this life and death struggle in order to gain our own ends, ends which without victory over our enemies would be meaningless. Would you sit down and discuss the re-furnishing of your home while the freeman is struggling to save the home from destruction? Let us rather help the freeman who, once overcoming the conflagration in Europe which is threatening what Irishmen hold most dear, and that is their liberty.

The tender solicitude for Ireland which our enemies have evinced can only be described as grotesque, and appeals only to our sense of humour. People with Belgium, Poland and Serbia on their conscience are not solicitous about Ireland's domestic problems except with one aim, and that is to stir up trouble to further their own ends. As they have failed in other quarters so must they fail in such a futile effort.

Every Irishman in China owes a debt to the greatness of the British Empire. Each of us has therefore a personal responsibility to do what he can to further its interests.

Gentlemen, my remarks have a local application. While it may not be possible for us to take an active share in this war, we can help both by our sympathy and our money. As you are aware there is an admirable opportunity to assist in the prosecution of the war through the War Savings Association, which is prepared to invest any small amount in War Bonds, and who is there among us who cannot subscribe \$1? I would ask you to give this your consideration and every one of you to become members. Apart from the war, saving money is a good thing. Let it not be said that Shanghai Irishmen did not avail themselves of this splendid opportunity of directly assisting those who are fighting for us.

It was decided after some discussion to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a dinner and to make a collection for the purpose of establishing a bed in an Irish hospital.

THE CENSOR'S MUSEUM.

INTERCEPTED ENEMY LETTERS.

There is a room in the heart of a great building in London (says a writer in the *Times*) where the walls are lined with shelves filled with books of every size, printed on every kind of paper in every kind of ink, with the letterpress in hundreds of different languages. In it are kept the thousands of specimen volumes of German propaganda which we have been fortunate enough to acquire. Here is the massed effort of the brains of many "Herr Professors and Doctors," the combined effort of the Wolff Bureau and its subsidiary branches. All these books, destined to be pulped again into paper that will this time bear the more honest ink of the English press, or to make wrapping paper for the small suburban butcher. At any rate, their usefulness is gone and their sting is drawn.

There is the usual Teutonic thoroughness about these propaganda books and papers. When they are printed in Arabic the German has blossomed out into Persian and Turkish decorations, copied from an ancient rug or a tile from a mosque. He uses the warm browns, the turquoise blues, the gold and red beloved of the Orientals. He chooses his pictures well and carefully explains each, but not with the same careful truthfulness. He finds that one avenue of ridicule which he uses to great ends in European propaganda is denied him. He cannot show endless pictures of black soldiers and label them "Champions for Liberty and Progress." Nor can he print the repulsive cartoons which purport to portray our best Indian troops, Gurkhas, Rajputs, Pathans, men with lineage compared with but of mushroom growth.

MEDALS AND CARTOONS.

The Crown Prince is a favourite with the propagandist. Photographs show him as he is, as the Germans think he is, and as the Germans want outsiders to think he is. They are not content with perpetuating his features on paper, but they must needs perpetuate them on metal, and there are medals with idyllic inscriptions and the younger William's head for every conceivable victory, and for many victories that have never happened. There is a large picture of a shell, a 400 Krupp, with lines put into the mouth of the German gunner. At the bottom are the names of the towns that have fallen to these products of Essen. They begin correctly enough with Liege, and Namur, but the two last are Toul and Verdun.

There are here innumerable works showing the way and wherefore of the war, fixing the responsibility on one nation, then on the other. There are many copies of the *Continental Times* with its long articles, in English telling of all the disasters that the Allied armies have yet to suffer. These same papers were hawked round the English prison camps in Germany and were eagerly snapped up; they are eagerly read and even threatened to rival *Punch*. Captain Keeling's book on these things is the log of the undersea liner *Deutschland*, well written and set out in all modesty.

ARRANGEMENTS DISLOCATED.

One impression with regard to the Censor's work needs to be corrected. Detection of contraband in the mails is not the principal function of the censorship. We do not keep 2,500 people in this great building merely searching for German propaganda and intercepting smuggled merchandise. In many respects the censorship may be said to be the eyes of the blockade. Its principal work lies in detecting and frustrating the innumerable and ever-changing subterfuges contrived by the enemy with the connivance of neutral intermediaries for evading the blockade and carrying the sinews of war into Central Europe in the form either of goods or of credit. The contrivance of such schemes by cable or by wireless is obviously impossible, and the examination of the mails has in countless cases proved an insuperable obstacle to their success. The enemy frequently expresses himself with frank exasperation, and the following extracts from letters of important enemy firms indicate their views of the censorship:

"As you see, the English are making so many disagreeable and seizing the post that our business is quite ruined. People do not dare to send money any more because they do not receive receipts from home."

"As seen from your telegram sent a few days ago our lists have not arrived for three weeks now. I think that if you sent the receipts in fifteen private envelopes I should perhaps receive them."

"It is incredible how you have helped the English Censor to establish the names of our agents, and also the fact that O. and G. looked after our letters. You appear to have received no post from us since the beginning of March. Worse still is the fact that because of the Censorship you have not got our invoices or bills of lading. From this miserable condition in which the English sea-robbery has placed us there is no way out."

"In conjunction with this we should like to say that according to our experience it seems now to be utterly impossible to ship any goods to foreign countries. Since the middle of April we received one single letter from one of our friends in the States in which he advises us that he instructed a banker in Berlin to remit us a certain amount. This remittance, however, we do not receive up to the present."

"Whatever the English want they get, for the whole postal communication with Germany is completely upset, and we never know whether one can draw money, or send money to the other side. It is very unpleasant for me also that I send 25,000 marks to Z., and if this remittance has not arrived, then all the interest will be lost and many months will go by before I get over all the difficulties."

"At this moment I have a remittance lying at L., but I have received no invoices and no bills of lading. Everything has again been stolen. These (Continued at foot of next column.)"

THE "LUSITANIA."

PLANS FOR SALVING.

Plans to save the treasure of the *Lusitania*, variously estimated at from one million to several millions of dollars in money, jewellery, lying 275 feet beneath the waves, eight miles off the Irish coast, are being made in New York. The attempt may be made early this spring, by one salvaging firm, and there may be others, including an English company, as the *Lusitania* is, to use a sporting phrase, "anybody's pigeon." It is known that negotiations are proceeding with the English underwriters by one New York firm, and that all available data concerning the position and condition of the sunken steamship, including the depth of water, temperature, currents and generally prevailing conditions, are being collected. The information acquired during the past few months has now led to a confidence that what treasure there is in the strong room, passengers' cabins and baggage holds can with a reasonable amount of luck be retrieved. The possibility of actually salvaging the vessel itself and beaching her on the Irish coast has been considered tentatively. The main deterrent is not the size but the condition of the vessel, and also the question of how much of her was left intact by the explosion of the torpedo which sent her to the bottom with a thousand victims in May, 1915. Nevertheless, when diving operations are begun the vessel will be thoroughly examined to determine if there is a possible chance of bringing her once more to the surface. The *Lusitania* was valued at \$2,000,000, and even as scrap, she would prove a bonanza in metal value alone.

CEYLON AWAKENING.

His Excellency Sir John Anderson (says the *Times of Ceylon*), has given the lead which has been persistently asked for two and a half years and the needs of the Empire so urgently demand. The supreme moment of the war is at hand, and Sir John Anderson, in a speech of inspiring solemnity, has emphasised in the Legislative Council Chamber the need for every dependency to put forth every ounce of strength, to send to the front every man who can possibly go away, and to give or to lend every penny that can be possibly spared.

are the difficulties we have to fight against. I hope it will not be long before peace is signed.

"In consequence of the condition of the postal service with your side, business is on a dead standstill. The monetary value of the cheques, drafts, and other documents of transfer in course of transmission for enemy benefit which have already been intercepted in the mails amounts to considerably over \$50,500,000, a portion of which was destined for investment in enemy war loans."

An case there still should be a doubt as to the value of this work, think of the dislocation which the stoppage of German trade correspondence means to German trade and finance. A good illustration is afforded by a passage in an intercepted letter from a German firm in South America to its head house in Hamburg:—

"We last wrote to you on May 1st and have not had the pleasure of hearing from you since then, from which we conclude that the Postal Service between here and Germany is becoming more hopeless every day. We see from the papers that the English blockade of Germany is getting stricter, and we almost fear that soon no more mail will be able to get through at all. It would produce the greatest consequence for us both if our monthly balance-sheets, and bookkeeping details were lost. That would not only mean an unheard-of labour for us but also an endless postponement of all means of settling up with our head house."

SUPPLIES HELD UP.

It is difficult to over-estimate the uncertainty and depression caused by this state of things, and some German auditors and accountants must be having hard times in trying to make books balance."

The vital necessity to the Germans of securing the transmission of money, credit, and securities will be realized when we remember that large consignments of securities were carried by the *Deutschland* and that the German high-power wireless by spending half its time sending money through the ether. Not even Marconi, however, has invented a plan that will transmit solid cash.

Wireless telegraphy is not only still very costly, but it has many limitations, which are clearly indicated by the following extracts from the recently intercepted correspondence of certain enemy firms:—

"Your claim (says one writer) in regard to the transmission of your subscription may be attributed to the fact that you are ignorant of the circumstances that the cable connection with the Monarchy has been completely interrupted, and that therefore, apart from wireless telegraphy, the only way open to transfer orders was by letters. As regards communications by means of wireless telegraphy, we would respectfully inform you that it is up to the present very unsatisfactory as a result of atmospheric disturbances. Long delays are unavoidable, and unfortunately messages are often distorted. Whenever possible we are transferring our orders by letter."

"We have made (another says) a number of attempts to get in touch with our bankers in Germany by wireless, but up to the present without success."

"As soon as I found (says another) that all my letters, so to speak, fell into the water, and did not reach their destination, I gave up writing any more. Similarly I did not receive a single letter from your side. Communication by wireless was also doubtful in the highest degree, and one often had no idea as to whether the message was destroyed by the Censor or whether it ever reached its destination or not. Taking it all round the present conditions are nothing less than infernal for a merchant who has been accustomed to a gradual and steady development of his business relations, and we can only hope that everything will some day turn out for the best."

FOREIGN TRADE POLICY.

SWEEPING CHANGES PROJECTED.

Particulars of a radical scheme for reforming the Consular Service and bringing it into closer touch with British trade were published on December 14th. This plan was formulated by a special committee of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, and has been endorsed by the individual Chambers. The January issue of the *Trade Supplement of The Times* contains particulars of the questions from representative business men.

The association sent particulars of their plan to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and received a confidential reply indicating that the matter had been engaging the attention of the Foreign Office for some time past, and, for the confidential information of the council, a copy was enclosed of a report recently drawn up by a Foreign Office Committee, respecting, not only the Consular Service, but the whole question of the proper organization of the Government service of commercial intelligence in foreign countries.

An examination of this report made it clear that the changes proposed by the Foreign Office effected the object that the association has in view, though not on exactly similar lines. Lord Robert Cecil expressed his willingness to receive a delegation from the association, when the council had had an opportunity of studying in detail the Foreign Office proposals, and the Foreign Office further announced that their recommendations would be immediately submitted to a small committee of business men. On this small committee the association naturally sought to be represented, and we understand that the Foreign Office having agreed, Mr. Pennefather, M.P., who contributed a searching examination of the present Consular system to the *Trade Supplement*, was appointed by the association as its representative.

CHARACTER OF REPORT.

Although the report of the Foreign Office is strictly confidential, and, it is to be noted, not yet approved, it is evident that it is of a revolutionary character, for the association's Consular Service Committee have reported that the "very considerable changes in the Diplomatic Service now recommended would so alter the position in regard to the Consular Service that a complete reorganization relating to both services would require to be reconsidered as a whole."

The committee go on to say that, if the main suggestions of the Foreign Office Committee were accepted, the adoption of a definite "foreign trade policy" would naturally follow, and it would be not only logical, but highly desirable, that our foreign trade policy should be as closely as possible linked up with our "general foreign policy." Finally, they declare that the Foreign Office scheme seems to carry the association's main suggestions to their logical conclusion, and they welcome it as a manifestation of a new and wide outlook on the connection between foreign trade and foreign policy.

This enthusiastic expression seems fairly to represent the opinion of business men who have had an opportunity of examining the project in detail, and there will naturally be considerable eagerness in commercial circles to learn further details, even if some portions of the report are withheld.

INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS FIRMS.

Meanwhile the Foreign Trade Department of the Foreign Office has inaugurated a new scheme for laying before business houses sufficient information concerning each Consular district and the firms trading in it to enable them to judge whether it is worth while to open a trade and consular mission in that district. The Consular officers abroad the character of the information desired by business men at home. Copies of an explanatory memorandum and of the key form and questionnaire, and specimen answers, were placed before the members of the council of the association, to whom a full explanation was given.

The association has offered to co-operate with and assist the Foreign Trade Department by acting up special arrangements for the distribution of the information, as it is received, to the Chambers of Commerce. Further particulars of the scheme will be sent to the Chambers in due course.

This will lend considerable importance to the functions of Chambers of Commerce, and, coupled with the fact that the association is raising a large sum of money, is probably an explanation of recent rumours that the Government intended to do something to increase the usefulness and importance of the Chambers. But it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that it must ultimately involve the elimination of members not of British nationality, or representing firms not wholly British.

The position of the recently created Commercial Intelligence Department at the Board of Trade will also require consideration, since in some quarters it is regarded as undesirable to have two organizations for disseminating commercial intelligence, and it is understood that the association made it clear to the Foreign Office that their approval of the new plan did not carry with it any weakening of their determination to press for the creation of a Ministry of Commerce.

THE LAST STAGE OF THE WAR.

The last stage of the war gives one the sense of vast sinister forces let loose, unamenable to reason, conscience, or human control, writes Mr. J. A. Spender in the *Westminster Gazette*. "We see the great monster lashing out in defiance of all that we had thought possible or credible, sinking hospital ships, enslaving multitudes, forcing his enemy to fight for him; striking madly at the one inferior enemy who had unfortunately left himself exposed. He will stagger humanity, carry us back at a rush to the Stone Age, sweep away all that we have called civilised, everything that has distinguished us from more killing, rather than retreating, the possibility that he can be beaten. If ever there was a time for cool head and steady nerves, it is surely now."

"DEPOSE THE KAISER."

BAVARIAN AUTHOR ON FLIGHT OF GERMANY.

"The Only Way Out" is the title of a Bavarian pamphlet which reached Rome on January 10th via Zurich. It is published at Munich under the auspices of the Association of Male Citizens of Southern Germany. The thesis, developed by its pseudonymous author, "Heinrich Siegel," is no other than that Germany's only practical course to avert final ruin lies in the dethronement of the House of Hohenzollern.

Reviewing the actual military situation, the author likens the series of German victories to those of King Pyrrhus. They are, he says, purely ephemeral, and nobody can be more keenly alive to this fact than Hindenburg, whose colossal forward movement on the Eastern front has merely succeeded in shifting the scene of trench warfare a few hundred miles, and whose war-worn forces, for a long time inert and impotent in front of Riga and Dünaburg, have still before them vast untrodden stretches of the Russian Empire.

WILLIAM II. AND NAPOLEON.

"Germany cries: 'We will fight till the last man, and when no more men are left we will enrol the women and old men,' but the people itself is convinced that no manoeuvre of this sort can avert ultimate defeat, which, despite all efforts and all sacrifices that we have made and will make, and despite mountainous ruins still increasing day by day, is at this moment mathematically certain."

The "Pamphleteer" regards Germany's present situation as identical with that of the French Empire a century ago. When the crucial moment comes, says William II., he asks, stand prepared to sacrifice himself for the German peoples as Napoleon I. sacrificed himself for the French nation!

"When Germany becomes convinced that a sufficient outlay of men and money has been already made, and that national honour has been saved, then will come the time for abrogating the Treaty of Versailles, and for changing the Constitution which granted to the Prussian Crown the privilege of hereditary and the German sceptre."

THE WAY OUT.

Even as France avoided the terrible peace conditions by deposing Napoleon, so Germany, faced by the vision of final catastrophe, will one day be driven to decide the deposing of the King of Prussia in favour of a Bavarian ruler. The House of Wittelsbach has fulfilled all its duties to the Empire, its sceptre is unstained, and in this war it has won its laurels again and again.

Not only would the German Empire under the Wittelsbach dynasty offer the necessary security for a European peace, but also the possibility of realizing a still greater Germany."

The writer then draws distinction between the Pan-Germanist and Grand Germanist party, stating that the latter is represented by the Socialism preached by Marx and Engels, and counts numerous adherents throughout Bavaria, even among the Conservative politicians; also in Mecklenburg, Hanover, Silesia, and Saxony, and aims at reuniting with Germany those Germans whom Austria annexed in 1866.

AUSTRIA'S DEATH AGONY.

Sieger views Austria as approaching its death agony, and argues that the maintenance of the Austro-Hungarian Empire by force of arms and police tyranny is no longer worth while now that the Empire has ceased to serve as a bulwark against the encroachments of Turkey.

He foresees that England, France, and Russia will never consent to negotiate peace with the present Kaiser, or the German Crown Prince, whereas "with the disappearance of the Hohenzollerns it will become possible for Germany to promote and cement cordial relations with England, as has happened in Great Britain's relations with France."

The Zurich *Volkrecht* says that the document here summarized voices a state of opinion very widely diffused in Bavaria, and indeed, almost everywhere in Southern Germany, as well as in influential middle-class circles and among the lower orders.

LETTING THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG.

To the overwhelming evidence that has already been given of Germany's responsibility for the War the *Tagesblatt* and *Antischau* now adds, in the course of an extravagant denunciation of Admiral von Tirpitz, the noteworthy statement that the strengthening of the German fleet from 1910 onwards was contrived deliberately for the purposes of the present war.

The importance far superior to that of our J-Best weapon, of our High Seas Fleet has been fully proved. Even in its enforced inactivity it has played a part in the overwhelming grand plan in the war. "To it we owe the unavailability of our coasts, and it made the British Dardanelles catastrophe inevitable, because England's Fleet, being compelled to remain in home waters, could not bring its entire force to bear in that part of the world."

The peril-threatening rise of Japan in the Far East is a further English disaster which is to be placed to the credit of the German High Seas fleet, which thus exerts its stranglehold on England.

"But for that fleet, England's game were an easy one. We should have caused for bitterest lamentation had our naval policy been carried out according to the plans of Deputy Loeblitz, and if, instead of ships of the line, we had built submarines chiefly."

"It will remain as an imperishable historic credit to Grand Admiral von Tirpitz that his preparations in time of peace enabled us eventually to carry on any war as all against England and only by making the fullest use of the weapon which he forged for us, especially for this war, shall we succeed in inflicting complete defeat on the dirty, brutal English rival."

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THERAPION No. 4

THERAPION No. 5

THERAPION No. 6

THERAPION No. 7

THERAPION No. 8

THERAPION No. 9

THERAPION No. 10

